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Not Quite Yet

DURING the past eight months the statement, in substance, has often been made that this is the time for the United States to assume and hold its place as the foremost of the nations of the earth.

Our country has a fine chance to take a foremost place, if we as a people, and ours as a government are great enough to assume and hold the position.

Are we great enough to stand the test? The first requisite is strength, the second is to have such control of our strength as will make it effective if put to a sudden, supreme test. Are we ready for such a test? Hardly.

Our children are receiving fairly good mental training in the schools, but what is being done to educate their eyes and hands to make them effective in case of trial?

When our boys leave school, how many of them are fitted to undertake some useful occupation and perform its duties? How many can ride a horse well or shoot a gun accurately? How many know anything about living in a camp or the simplest lessons of military drill?

How many of the girl graduates know when a home is well managed?

Again, is there any sensible organization of society?

Take for example the little city of Salt Lake; how many of her citizens know the real conditions? What proportion of the people who need work are idle? What is being done to give to such people honorable and honest employment? How many who need employment are fitted to perform some honest work in a capable way?

It may be asked, "What has that to do with national greatness?" Only this. Salt Lake City is one of the small units of our republic, and the units are what give character to the whole.

More, as the suns, the satellites and the stars are created out of just such atoms as our earth is, and our planet symbols them all, so the greater governments, state and national, of our country, are only what is symbolized in the little units that make up the smaller subdivisions.

That leads up to the natural question, "What are the states, what is the central government doing to prove that our nation is essentially great, and prepared to vindicate its greatness should a crucial test come?"

Suppose our country was to be confronted suddenly by a great war, in what position would it be to meet it? Have the eyes and hands of the people been even superficially trained in the requirements of military life?

The prudent man takes out an insurance on his life and property to serve him against age and disease and to protect his family. How much

insurance has our country taken out in order to meet the exactions of a possible great war?

It makes a good showing on the sea, but how are its coast defenses equipped and in what state would a million of men be in, if suddenly called to the colors?

Again, are we as a nation doing the right thing toward the people who need work? Are the necessary factories running? Is all the land being cultivated that should be? Have we the needed steam lines to carry away our surplus products and to bring back what our manufacturers and people want?

Looking over our educational, business and labor conditions and estimating our preparedness for defense against outside, possible foes, have we really any right to assume that we are leading the world's civilization, or in a position to claim a right to lead?

The American mind is bright and brave enough, but we are not using half our gifts, are not in private or public being trained to bring out half our powers; and never have either as individuals or as a nation been subjected to the discipline out of which comes the utmost wisdom, power and effectiveness of a people.

Just an Animal

IN the stone age the law of might only was invoked. Man, like the beast, preyed upon his fellows. When he had advanced up to the point of semi-civilization, after he had learned to weave and wear garments; to build houses; to tame horses; to cultivate the ground; to make agricultural implements and instruments of war; to build cities and to learn the necessity of enforcing order and had created and subjected himself to necessary law; he still held in his soul the original instinct; the savage claim that the strongest has a right to rule, really governed him. Only his methods had changed, the old instinct was still strong in his nature.

He was like Sisyphus, he was still ready to steal his neighbor's beehives and then to bribe the oracle to predict a famine that he might advance the price of beef. He still claimed that prisoners taken in war were his and he had a right to kill them or reduce them to slavery, and woman to him was either a plaything or a slave.

After men had watched the lives and deaths of men for many generations and had learned that man, despite his superior intelligence, had no hold upon this life; that the strong and weak alike were all fated to die, and through that knowledge and through the incessant longing to know if indeed death was the end; religion was finally born; men began to call upon the gods; to admit some of their obligations to them and to each other, still the old, original perversion remained; stronger than man's sense of justice; strong enough in woman to crush back the yearnings of maternity and give her the unnatural strength to expose her deformed child where the cold or wild beast would kill it, rather than permit one to live that could not, at maturity, be able to bear arms if a man or if a female to become the mother of soldiers.

As civilization progressed into marvelous enlightenment, when in mechanics men rivaled some of the works of the Infinite; when in scholarship man attained so high a place that the mysteries of the sciences were unfolded in a thousand directions to him; until even God's working agent, electricity, submitted to become man's slave; when man learned to talk, as face to face, with friends separated from him, by continents and rolling oceans; when men had learned to find the germs of disease in the beaks of insects and the miasma of the swamps; to measure the speed of light in its journeys from world to world; when music had taken on the divine tones which it gives out in the realms where music was born; when the experience of the ages had taught that all men are on a common level and each one is entitled to a free right of way in this swift journey between the eternities which we call our human life; in the most scientific nation of the earth we find a subtle intellect putting forth a theory; that the nation which is the strongest, most skilled and best prepared, has a right to go out into the world to conquer and possess what belongs to weaker nations, and the whole nation has apparently accepted the theory as right, and has engaged in the work of carrying to fruition this idea. What different is it from the original idea of the cave man?

In the long cycle of the ages has man returned back to the place of beginning? Despite his culture has he returned with all the old fierce instincts? Has he the same old promptings only with a scientific knowledge of how to exercise them?

When the fury of the present clashings shall have, through exhaustion, ceased, will man have learned the lesson that he cannot be civilized through learning; that only the grace of God can subdue his savage nature and really enlighten him?

Some people have predicted that when the present war shall have spent its forces, a great religious wave will sweep around the world. Whether that will prove true or not of course remains to be seen, but surely all thoughtful men should learn from the war the experience that man does not possess within himself the elements which by any earthly evolution can make him fairminded, merciful and just; that only through the grace of God can he put away what within him is of the earth earthy, and put on the robes of righteousness.

The Note to Germany

THE last note of our government to Germany rings high and true. It carries no threat, but it makes clear that justice is expected, justice under the law from a great nation for a great wrong committed, and the implication that right must rule is unmistakable.

The first feature of it is that what it asks is not limited to any national boundaries, but for all the world.

The high courtesy in which its words are couched is maintained all the way through it, and its tone when its entire import is considered, accentuates its power and broadens its significance.